



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

No. 12-027

April 10, 2012

MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Y. Gross

Office: (502) 564-2015 **Cellular:** (502) 330-5063 **E-mail:** lisa.gross@education.ky.gov

BELCHER RECEIVES MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Johnny Belcher, a mathematics and physics teacher at Pikeville High School, is Kentucky's newest recipient of the [Milken Family Foundation](#) National Educator Award, which includes a financial reward of \$25,000.

Belcher was notified of his award today, when Education Commissioner Terry Holliday, University of Pikeville President Paul Patton, Milken Family Foundation representative Sheila Duncan and local dignitaries visited his school.

Belcher has taught at Pikeville High for 14 years and is the department chair and instructional supervisor in mathematics for grades 7-12. This year, he also is teaching courses as an adjunct faculty member of the University of Pikeville.

Belcher earned a bachelor's degree from Alice Lloyd College and a master's degree from Morehead State University. He is working toward a doctorate at the University of Louisville and has achieved Rank I and certification as a supervisor of instruction.

Belcher's other accomplishments include:

- serving as the high schools representative in the Mathematics Leadership Network
- served on the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition Board of Directors for three years
- co-author of "Incorporating a Critical Pedagogy of Place in the Mathematics Classroom: Rural School Bussing," which appeared in the *Journal of Teaching and Learning*, 2008, vol. 5, No. 2
- contributed to the development of end-of-course exams in geometry

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.

Page 2 -- Milken

As Kentucky's Milken Family Foundation National Educator, Belcher will receive a check for \$25,000. There are no restrictions on the use of the award -- the winners may use the money in any way they choose.

The award provides public recognition and a cash reward to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other education professionals. The foundation was established in 1985, and the first awards given in 1987. Kentucky has participated since 1993, with 52 recipients since then. This year, more than 50 educators nationwide were selected as winners.

The Milken Educator Network is a voluntary association of nearly 2,000 Milken Educators and other exemplary educators and business leaders from across the country who are dedicated to improving teacher quality and utilizing research and expertise to shape education policy at state and local levels.

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Santa Monica, California-based foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research.

##